

United States Population Decline Start Predicted in 1980

Decline in the population of the United States may be expected to start shortly after 1980, according to United States census forecasts.

The increase in the population, which has been steady since the founding of the nation, by 1970 will be less than 1.2 per cent, as compared with the increase of 7.2 per cent revealed in the 1940 census.

Birth Rate Dropping

The estimates were prepared by the National Resources Planning Board, Warren S. Thompson and P. K. Whepton of the Scripps Foundation for Population Research.

Indications are of a falling off in the birth rate.

At the same time there will be a steady increase in the number of persons of 75 years of age and older.

In 1940, for example, persons four years old or less numbered 10,597,891. In this same group by the year 1980 there will be only 9,301,000.

In 1940, persons 75 years old, or older, totaled 2,607,432. By 1980 this group will be nearly four times as great for a total of 7,796,000. In other words, fewer will be born, but those who see the light of day may expect to live to a ripe old age.

Folks Will Grow Older

Persons less than four years old now comprise 8 per cent of the nation's total population. By 1980 they will form only 6.1 per cent.

On the other hand, those 75 and older who now comprise only 2 per cent of the population, will have advanced to become 5.1 per cent.

The largest age group as disclosed by the 1940 census was composed of male and female persons between the ages of 15 and 19 years.

'Teen Age Group to Decline

Those of the 'teen age are now 9.4 per cent of the total population. But in 1980 they will drop to but 6.6 per cent to be replaced by the 30 to 34 years group which will by then become 6.9 per cent, or the leading group of the nation.

The interesting figures have been compiled without consideration of possible changes in the immigration laws.—*Pasadena Star-News*, July 29.

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Sterilization "Curbs Crime"

Compulsory military service for youths of 18, and voluntary sterilization of criminals were urged today by Dr. Leo L. Stanley, chief surgeon at San Quentin, as "two measures which, in a feeble way, might aid in crime prevention."

A year's military service, he told the American Prison Association Convention at the Fairmont Hotel "would provide an excellent opportunity for completely examining, mentally as well as physically, all young men."

"Should it be determined a youth were mentally ill, he could be institutionalized and properly treated," said Doctor Stanley. "Twenty per cent of all criminals in prisons are feeble-minded. Had this been determined when they were only 18 or 19, proper steps could have been taken to care for many of these cases before they reached prison."

He warmly defended voluntary sterilization, which was denounced earlier during the convention by the Rev. George O'Meara, San Quentin chaplain.

"Sterilization is a simple operation, requiring only about fifteen minutes," said Doctor Stanley. "None of the man's normal functions is impaired except the reproduction of his own kind."

"Stockmen employ sterilization to keep their herds pure. Orchardists eliminate infected trees. Gardeners pull up weeds. Why shouldn't we use the same procedure for the human race, particularly the criminals, to prevent them from producing offspring that might inherit the bad qualities of the parents? This is effectively done in insane asylums, where proper legislation allows it to be carried out."

Instead of attempting compulsory sterilization, said Dr. Stanley, the medical departments at California prisons "have resorted to persuasion, leaving the decision to the inmate himself."

During the past seven years, he said, 600 prisoners have submitted to such operations. Most of the men, he added, were in prison for crimes involving property, and not sex. . . .—*San Francisco News*, August 21.

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Sing Sing Doctor Attacks Methods; Cays Most Convicts Are Mentally Sick

Science through the lips of a Sing Sing doctor coldly indicted the American prison system as one hundred years behind the times—"in that state where mental hospitals were when they were called lunatic asylums."

Dr. Ralph S. Banay, psychiatrist in charge of classification at New York's Sing Sing, ripped to shreds the popular notion of crime and punishment.

In his studies of Sing Sing prisoners, he said, only 31 per cent could be classified as normal persons. The remainder range from the alcoholic to the insane. All should be treated in hospitals.

In an interview and before the night sessions of the American Prison Congress in the Hotel Fairmont, Doctor Banay declared punishment, in most cases, is an expensive and ineffectual process.

Yet it is essentially the philosophy of prison.

Little Improvement

The 70 per cent of prison inmates who drift through the prison routine are released with little improvement, Doctor Banay said.

"With this large percentage of those whose mental health is in great need of care and attention, prisons are still proceeding along primarily custodial lines."

Prisons, built to punish and to hold the offender from society, he added, "are inadequate to meet the real need of the inmate and warrant enough safety to society for the readjustment of the individual offender upon release from the prison."

"Even the best and all-inclusive program would result in correction sterility unless the mind of the individual is prepared to absorb and assimilate it."

This is the mental health of men received at Sing Sing, according to statistics of ten years:

One per cent is insane; 11 per cent are mental defectives; 20 per cent are alcoholics; 20 per cent are immature and of the split personality type.

"Inmates who were not found mentally ill were far from possessing good mental health," Doctor Banay said. . . .

Mental Deficiencies

Fourteen per cent of Sing Sing prisoners (figures are probably true in all prisons, he said) are mentally deficient. The mental age is sometimes as low as six years old.

They need special care since they cannot understand and follow through a prison routine based on the normal mentality. They are unclean, indolent, morose, sullen. They flare up emotionally. They start fights.

But these are not the real problem. Psychopathic states, alcoholics, the emotionally immature, and others of the abnormal need something other than prison.

One out of five, Doctor Banay found, is emotionally immature.

"These men could commit crime of the most atrocious nature. They expose themselves to hazards and risks, feeling no fear prior to nor satisfaction after performance of the crime. . . .

Alcoholics

Alcoholics, 20 of the 70 per cent, "cover up an underlying condition. They don't drink for pleasure. They are driven by an uncontrollable urge and should be in other institutions."

The same is true of cases of sex pathology, which Doctor Banay believes are compulsory. He said such men are of normal intelligence, but are unable to help themselves.

Prison fails to do anything for them, he said.

Instability of mood sends a seemingly normal man to writing checks or charging bills, and the emotional swing may take him back to despair and suicide. . . .—*San Francisco Chronicle*, August 22.

LETTERS†**Concerning New Provisions and Instructions Regarding California Narcotic Laws.**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF PENOLOGY

DIVISION OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT

San Francisco, August 20, 1941.

George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary
California Medical Association
San Francisco, California

Dear Doctor Kress:

At the last session of the State Legislature, I recommended certain changes in the Health and Safety Code of California, particularly dealing with our regulations on habit-forming drugs.

† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.

After almost one year of the use of the official triplicate form of narcotic prescriptions, we found that we could make certain changes that would remove from the official forms some drugs that were not habit-forming, in the dosage usually prescribed by the doctors. Effective September 13, 1941, Ethyl-Morphine, commonly known as Dionin, Lead and Opium Wash, Apomorphine, Stokes Expectant, Brown's Mixture, Syrup of Cocillana Compound, and all other preparations containing not more than two grains of opium to the fluid or avoirdupois ounce, will be written on the old form of prescription, and not on the official triplicate blanks. Straight Codeine (tablet or powder form) and Tincture of Opii Camphorated (Paregoric) when not compounded with other ingredients will be written on the official blanks.

We were requested by the chiroprodists to broaden the provisions of our narcotic laws to permit approximately one hundred of their members to purchase narcotics on the Federal Order Forms and to prescribe drugs commonly used for external treatment of the feet. After the effective date of the new law, the chiroprodists will be entitled to the use of those drugs that are necessary in their practice.

For several years past there has been a need for emergency supplies of narcotics in many of our small private institutions, and Section 11331.5 of the Code was amended in order to permit an emergency supply in hospitals which do not employ a resident pharmacist and which hospitals are under the supervision of a licensed physician. This supply may be purchased by the superintendent, a licensed physician, on his Federal Order Form and administered by a registered nurse or nurses under his direction. The prevalence of automobile accidents in the remote sections of our State where narcotics were needed for immediate use necessitated this change in our law. The fact that narcotics were not immediately available caused unnecessary suffering to the injured while the supply was being ordered from some other source.

Enclosed herewith please find a draft of the sections as amended in the Health and Safety Code relative to habit-forming drugs.

I would sincerely appreciate your courtesy in publicizing these new regulations to the members of the medical profession through the CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE journal.

(Signed) PAUL E. MADDEN,
Chief, Division of Narcotic Enforcement.

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DIVISION OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PAUL E. MADDEN, Chief

New Legislation Pertaining to Issuing Narcotic Prescriptions

Effective September 13, 1941

Instructions to Those Authorized to Issue Prescriptions for Narcotic Drugs in the State of California

In the last session of the State Legislature (fifty-fourth session, 1941), that part of Division X of the Health and Safety Code which pertains to the writing of narcotic prescriptions was amended in the following particulars:

Section 11166.12 of the Code was amended to read as follows:

The provisions of this code, with reference to the writing of narcotic prescriptions on official triplicate blanks and the filling thereof, do not apply to any preparations containing codeine or to preparations containing not more than two grains of opium to the fluid or avoirdupois ounce, without additional narcotics when compounded with other medicinal ingredients or to preparations containing apomorphine hydrochloride, or ethylmorphine hydrochloride (dionin), prescribed in writing in good faith for medicinal purposes only.

When codeine, or tincture opii camphorata (paregoric) is not compounded with other ingredients, it shall be prescribed on the official blanks.

Section 11200 of the Code was amended to read as follows:

The provisions of this division requiring prescriptions and physicians' reports do not apply to preparations or to remedies or prescriptions sold or prescribed in good faith for medicinal purposes only and not for the purpose of satisfying addiction, containing not more than one grain of codeine in one fluidounce without additional narcotics, or not more than ten grains of chloralhydrate in one fluidounce, or two grains of cannabis sativa in one fluidounce, or, if a solid preparation, in one ounce avoirdupois.

Section 11331.5 of the Code was amended to read as follows:

In order to provide a supply of narcotics as may be necessary to handle emergency cases, any hospital which does not employ a resident pharmacist and which is under the supervision of a licensed physician, may purchase narcotics on Federal order forms for said institution, under the name of said licensed physician, said supply to be made available to a registered nurse for administration to patients in emergency cases, upon direction of a licensed physician.

A report showing the kind and amount of narcotics purchased on the Federal order form shall be forwarded, by registered mail, to the Division of Narcotic Enforcement, at the time such narcotics are purchased.

In all other respects the law, of course, remains the same as heretofore.

Physicians specializing in conditions of the eye, ear and nose, please note the first amendment referred to—that of Section 11166.12, with reference to Dionin.

All physicians should note the preparations which do not require the triplicate form of blank. The Narcotic Division has been receiving a great number of prescriptions which do not require the triplicate form. This only adds to the work of the Division as well as the prescriber and the druggist.

Relative to the drugs and preparations referred to under Section 11166.12: It will be noted that the drugs and preparations therein included are not to be prescribed on the triplicate narcotic prescription blank. *However, a regular prescription blank must be used when prescribing such drugs and preparations.*

Copies of the Narcotic Act will be furnished by the Narcotic Division upon request. For information address:

San Francisco office, 156 State Building. Telephone, UNDERhill 8700.

Los Angeles office, 102 State Building. Telephone, Mutual 3804.

Concerning Address of G. W. Crile, M. D., to Humboldt County Medical Society.

To the Editor:—The Humboldt County Medical Society held a special dinner for Dr. G. W. Crile on Saturday night, August 2, 1941. Doctor Crile, Mrs. Crile, and his associates, Dr. D. B. Quaring and Mr. James Barrett, attended. Doctors Crile and Quaring gave a review of their book, "Intelligence, Power, and Personality," to be published in September, 1941.

They dissected and studied the organs of four whales in Eureka. This was the culmination of fourteen of effort in which time nearly four thousand animals from mouse to the whale were dissected. The relationship between the sizes of different animals, their degree of activity and their organs were explained. Their studies were mainly with the brain, thyroid gland, and celiac ganglion.

The talk was given in easily understandable language, and all those present were inspired by the personality of Doctor Crile. Our society feels indeed fortunate in being afforded the opportunity to act as host for Doctor Crile and his associates.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. S. WOOLFORD, M. D.,
Secretary.